

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Application of:	)	
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Jeltsch THOMAS et al.	)	
	)	
Application No.: Unassigned	)	Group Art Unit: Unassigned
	)	
Filed: July 2, 2003	)	Examiner: Unassigned

For: SNAP CONNECTION FOR CONNECTING TWO TUBE ENDS

Commissioner for Patents  
**MAIL STOP PATENT APPLICATION**

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)**

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56 and 1.97(b), Applicants bring to the attention of the Examiner the documents listed on the attached PTO-1449. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed within three months of the filing date of the above-referenced application and before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits for the above-referenced application.

A copy of each listed document is attached. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider the listed documents and evidence that consideration by making appropriate notations on the attached form.

The following are listed on the accompanying PTO-1449 and are in a language other than English.

a. Japanese Patent Application No. 11-201356. The relevance of this document is discussed at page 3 of the specification of the present application and is shown in the English-language abstract.

b. German Patent Application No. DE 37 27 858 A1. The relevance of this document is discussed at page 2 of the specification of the present application and is shown in the English-language abstract.

c. German Patent Application No. DE 38433995 C1. The relevance of this document is discussed at page 2 of the specification of the present application.

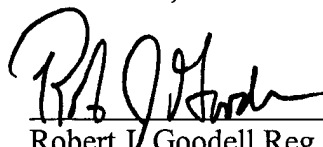
d. European Patent Application No. EP 0 750 152 B1. The relevance of this document is discussed at page 2 of the specification of the present application.

This submission does not represent that a search has been made or that no better art exists and do not constitute an admission that the listed documents are material or constitute "prior art." If it should be determined that the listed documents do not constitute "prior art" under United States law, Applicants reserve the right to present to the Office the relevant facts and law regarding the appropriate status of such documents. Applicants further reserve the right to take appropriate action to establish the patentability of the disclosed invention over the listed documents, should the documents be applied against the claims of the present application.

If there is any fee due in connection with the filing of this Statement, please charge the fee to our Deposit Account No. 50-0310.

Respectfully submitted,

**MORGAN, LEWIS & BOCKIUS LLP**



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Date: July 2, 2003

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<b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION</b> (Use several sheets if necessary)  <b>PTO Form 1449</b>	Attorney Docket No. 041463-5033	Serial No. Unassigned
	Applicants Jeltsch THOMAS et al.	
	Filing Date July 2, 2003	Group Unassigned

<b>U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS</b>
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*Examiner Initial	Document Number	Date	Name	Class	Sub Class	Filing Date

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS							
		Document Number	Date	Country	Class	Sub Class	Translation
							YES NO
		11-201356	Jul. 30, 1999	Japan			abstract
		DE 37 27 858 A1	Jan. 19, 1989	Germany			abstract
		DE 3843995 C1	Dec. 27, 1988	Germany			X
		EO 0 750 152 B1	Dec. 27, 1996	Europe			X
		WO 99/34143	Jul. 6, 1999	WIPO			

OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)		

Examiner	Date Considered
Examiner: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.	